

## FIRE MATTERS.

RST  
THE  
CON  
so T  
  
Victor Corras of Phoenix Hose Company Makes Complaint to the Town Council about the Condition of Phoenix Hose House—Chairman Unangst on the Condition of the Fire Houses in General.

Victor F. Corras, one of the oldest men in the department, and a charter member of Phoenix Hose Company, appeared before the Town Council Monday night and stated that the headquarters occupied by Phoenix Hose Company needed repairing. Mr. Corras requested that either the building be repaired or new quarters be found for the company. He asserted that unless something was done soon the hose carriage would fall through the floor into the cellar.

Chairman Unangst of the Fire Committee, in reply to Mr. Corras, said that the Fire Committee did not have the money to put the fire houses in the condition they ought to be in. Excelsior Hose house, he said, was the only fire house in the town that was in good condition. The Truck house and Active Hose house were like Phoenix Hose house, unmentionable. He said there was no use of the town spending any more money on them, as in some parts they are beyond repair. There is only one thing to do, he said, and that is to bond the town for a large enough sum to erect decent fire houses, the same as Montclair.

Mr. Corras asserted that some repairs would have to be made in Phoenix Hose Company's place in order to prevent damage to property.

Mr. Unangst said that the Fire Committee would give the matter attention.

In the matter of issuing bonds for the erection of fire houses the question arose as to whether or not the Council had power to authorize an issue of bonds without submitting the matter to a vote of the people.

Burt M. Becker was elected a member of Essex Hook and Ladder Company No. 1, and John R. Marshall was dropped from the rolls of that company.

Joseph B. Schaub and Archibald M. Heath of Phoenix Hose Company No. 1 were granted certificates of exemption, having served the full seven years, as required by law. The election of Walter O'Neill as foreman of Phoenix Hose Company and Augustus C. Ashby as his assistant was approved by the Council, as were also the officers recently chosen by Excelsior Hose Company. The resignations of Walter Lang and Fred Fiorus as members of that company were accepted by the Council.

### A Case for Inquiry.

Patrick Drudy, a well-known citizen of this town, is in the Mountaintop Hospital suffering from injuries received in Israel Berman's saloon, upper Broad Street, on Monday. Conflicting stories are told as to the manner in which Mr. Drudy received his injuries, but members of his family have made complaint to the police department, and warrants were issued by Justice Post for the arrest of William Seiler of Verona, Peter Tompkins and a Montclair man. One story is that Mr. Drudy, in company with a young man named William Volmer, went into the saloon for the purpose of getting a glass of beer. Several men, partly intoxicated, were in the saloon at the time, and were in a belligerent mood. They began to tantalize young Volmer, and Mr. Drudy remonstrated and one of the crowd seized him and threw him heavily on the floor. He was unable to get up and the crowd was much alarmed when it was found that he was helpless. He was lifted up and placed in a chair, with the expectation that he would rally shortly, but after two hours had passed and he showed no sign of recovering, a carriage was secured and he was taken to his home, and from there to the hospital. Another version of the affair is that Mr. Drudy was one of a party in the saloon, and that one of them dropped an apple, which rolled along the floor, and there was a scuffle for it, in which Mr. Drudy joined and was hurt in the crush. Mr. Drudy's friends declare this latter version of the affair absurd. Late Monday night it was reported that Mr. Drudy was going to die, and Recorder Post and Policeman Moran went to his house to get what was thought to be his dying statement, and in that Mr. Drudy declared that he was thrown to the floor, by one of the party in the saloon.

There has been much talk of late about Mr. Berman's failure to conduct his place in accordance with the requirements of the town ordinance. It is alleged that his place is noisy and disorderly, and fights are frequent. The Chief of Police and a member of the Town Council have both notified Mr. Berman of the complaints about his place.

## BIG WATER MAIN

TO BE LAID THROUGH THIS TOWN BY THE CITY OF NEWARK

Will Carry Water to the City from Cedar Grove Reservoir—Provision will be Made for Future Lateral Mains in This Town and Glen Ridge—Work to be Started Next Spring.

A representative from the office of the Newark Water Department was present at the Town Council meeting on Monday night and submitted the following letter and resolution:

"To the Town Council of the Town of Bloomfield:

"GENTLEMEN: Referring to my communication addressed to your Chairman, dated March 18, 1902, respecting the proposed construction by the city of Newark of the sixty-inch pipe line from Cedar Grove reservoir to the city of Newark, I beg to state that the city is now ready to proceed with this work in accordance with the map which was sent to you with my former communication, and on behalf of the city of Newark I respectfully request the passage of the subjoined resolution so that the work may proceed with a thorough understanding between the two municipalities.

M. P. SHERRELD,  
Engineer and Superintendent Water  
Department, City of Newark."

The resolution that Mr. Sherred asked the Council to adopt read as follows:

"Resolved: That the application of the Board of Street and Water Commissioners of the city of Newark through their engineer, M. P. Sherred, for the construction of said city's sixty-inch steel water main through this town be granted, the said main to be laid in the following streets and locations to wit:

"On Bloomfield Avenue from Newark city line to Glen Ridge line, upon the condition that the city of Newark will promptly restore the surface of all streets and roads to the condition in which they were before the work was commenced, and that all Macadam and Tarford roadways shall be restored to condition equal to that of a new road of the same character, and in accordance with the specifications under which the road in question was built, such restoration to be not only over that portion of the trench but the entire area that may have been in any way injured by the work. The said city of Newark also to take care of and replace in good condition all sewer pipes, water pipes, gas pipes, electric pipes, or other underground structures that may be interfered with or disturbed by the laying of said main, leaving the same in as good condition as they were before the laying of the main was commenced, all the said work to be done without unnecessarily impeding the use of the streets by the public. This resolution construed to be in favor of and its obligations to be assumed by the contractor of the city of Newark as well as by the city itself."

Councilman Harrison moved that the resolution be referred to the Legal Committee of the Council with instructions to inquire what the possibilities were for this town obtaining a water supply from the big main.

Councilman Moore asked the Newark representative if the main would carry sufficient water to supply the towns of Montclair, Glen Ridge and Bloomfield, and if the city possessed a water supply sufficient for that purpose.

The Newark man said the main would be large enough and there was an ample supply for all the towns along the avenue, but he did not commit himself as to whether Newark would undertake to supply those towns, but he said that provision would be made in the construction of the main for the future attachment of sixteen-inch lateral mains at points along the avenue, and cited Park Avenue, the Centre, Orange Street and Grove Street as the points in this town where such provision would be made. It was stated that the work of laying the big main would not be started until next spring, but it was likely that pipes would be distributed along the avenue this winter.

### Cemetery Work Resumed.

Now that legal obstructions have been removed work will be actively resumed on the St. James Lutheran Cemetery grounds. Richard L. Tobin of East Orange has been awarded the contract for stone Gothic gateway at the entrance to the cemetery.

## MANUAL TRAINING

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TAKES ADVANTAGE OF A STATE OFFER

And Make Arrangements for a Course of Studies in Manual Training—Some of the Purposes of That Branch of Education—Only Practical Work will be Carried On.

As has been previously announced, the Board of Education has taken action towards introducing manual training as a part of the system of educational work in the public schools. The offer of the State of \$1,500 towards defraying the cost of a system of manual training in the schools made it possible for the Board to take up the work without additional cost to the taxpayers. This master of instruction in manual training, while accepted in educational circles as one of the most essential factors in the theory of common school educational work, is not yet so generally accepted among the laity, many of whom are bitterly prejudiced against any innovation in school work beyond the ancient and narrow limits of the three R's. The prejudice against manual training is solely due to the fact that the subject is not thoroughly understood, and some parents, not caring to inquire or examine into the principles involved, have pronounced against manual training as a waste of time in play. The object of manual training is to develop the artistic instincts of the scholars. In those towns and cities where manual training has been a part of the school curriculum for years, and its benefits and advantages have been demonstrated, much work of a high order is being done. Superintendent Poland of Newark says:

"A few years ago manual training was an experiment in our schools, but it is now long past that stage. If left to the vote of the people, I am sure the majority in favor of manual training would be overwhelming. That this has come in so short a time is due to the fact that manual training has a need long realized, but not until recently provided for. The arguments for manual training are now so well known and understood that I need scarcely repeat them. Boys and girls delight in doing something with their hands as well as with their heads. To create something that can be seen, handled and used, connects the school life with the out-of-school life, the real with the ideal life. It savors of the kind of activities that girls and boys will be called upon to undertake when they become men and women and have to labor for a living after they get out of school.

"If the manual training exercises did nothing more than give a taste of real life, we should be justified in giving it a place in the school curriculum; but it does more, since the carefully selected studies and occupations are essentially such as give a distinct and valuable training and preparation for the employments of bread-winning.

"To devote the whole time or the greater part of the school period to manual training would be unwise and indefensible on any ground; but to give it two hours per week, as our course of study calls for, secures a valuable end of itself, and adds to rather than detracts from the proficiency obtained in the purely intellectual studies. This I think can be conclusively shown in those schools where manual training has been its proper relation to the other school branches. To make a hobby or a fad of manual training, as of anything else—of arithmetic, for instance—would be decidedly bad; but to justly apportion the school work, giving the pure intellectual studies their due share of emphasis and giving manual training its fair proportion of time and attention, we shall get the best educational results."

There had been prepared an outline of the manual training course in art and art-crafts to be given in the public schools of this town. Accompanying the outline of the course of study is a statement of the purposes for which this branch of study is designed. In this it is set forth that underlying the manual training courses are its purposes to train hand, eye and brain in skilful co-ordination, and to teach methods of making articles of usefulness and beauty.

The first purpose of manual training is said to be physiological, and the same in nature as training for handwriting or physical culture or athletics. The second purpose of manual training is to develop the constructive faculty by teaching methods of making articles of usefulness and beauty. In the manual training courses in the local schools the teachers are expressly given to understand that all exercises of non-essential value, either in interest or usefulness, are to be avoided. Things of no value are never intentionally to be made. A third purpose of manual training is the development of the mental activities. A lesson in construction is a lesson in the harmonies of size, color and form. The things made by the children are their compositions in form and in color

and in cloth.

The third purpose of manual training in developing the mental faculties has a spiritual side. The power to think out a plan and then to make the object as directed by the plan is spiritual. The constructive imagination, which manual training unquestionably exercises, is one of the highest human faculties, and its efficiency or inefficiency is closely related to the will. Manual training strengthens the will by exercising it. So considered it serves as a corrective of those many other influences of the school which necessarily restrain children from self-expression. Manual training must be considered by all true teachers as an affirmative moral training whose spirit is, "Do this."

The fourth purpose of the manual training course is to bring the minds of pupils into relation with the best aspects of real life both in the field of utility and of beauty. The systematic manual training curriculum has been developed in modern education to take the place of that training which in their childhood for many generations the ancestors of modern men received from the constructive work of their own households. The modern child by the very advances of civilization is deprived of the knowledge, activity and the skill which are essential to a complete development of body and soul.

In the future of the manual training course art will manifest itself in the development of the ability of the creative force to express itself correctly and beautifully through the free imagination. Art is the play of the human spirit, and play is activity for its own sake. An art-product is desirable for itself because of its beauty, and irrespective of its use. But the spirit of work, which is activity for the sake of the product, is the only reliance for the support of good civilizations. Play and work together make life worth while to children; and this course is meant to keep the spirit of both play and work active together in the education in the schools.

The manual training course in the local schools will run through a course of twelve grades, beginning at first grade, with the simplest forms of art and construction, and concluding with dressmaking for girls and applied chemistry for boys in grade twelve.

### TOWN COUNCIL

Report of the Finance Committee—Improvement Ordinances Passed—Police Committee's Report—Town's Power to Issue Bonds for the Erection of Public Buildings.

At the meeting of the Town Council Monday night Councilman Conlan of the Finance Committee submitted the financial report of Town Treasurer Harry L. Osborne for the month of November. On motion of Mr. Conlan, the Treasurer was authorized to pay off \$10,000 of the town's indebtedness to the national bank.

Councilman Moore of the Legal and Franchise Committee made the usual progress report on the Essex Cross Railway franchise application. Mr. Moore stated that several other matters in the hands of the Legal Committee would soon be ready for final report, among them the Linden Avenue improvement work.

H. G. Long of No. 66 Cloupet Street, whose Belgian hares were killed by dogs some time ago, and who applied to the Council to know if he could not be compensated for his loss from the money raised from the assessment levied on dogs, again applied Monday night, inquiring if the Council had taken any action in the matter. The matter was laid on the table.

Residents of Oakdale Avenue petitioned for a flagstone sidewalk. Chief of Police L. M. Collins reported 24 arrests in the month of November, and \$69.25 collected in fines.

The report of the Board of Assessors of the assessment levied for the Osborne Street and Essex Avenue sewer work was submitted to the Council and confirmed. The ordinances for the opening and widening of Walnut Street and Jerome Place and Delaware Avenue passed final reading. The Charles Street sewer ordinance also passed final reading.

Councilman Conlan of the Sewerage and Drainage Committee submitted Engineer Olmsted's report on the Washington Street storm sewer, petitioned for by Mr. Roubaud and others.

Town Attorney Halfpenny reported to the Council on the question of the power of the Council to issue bonds for the building of fire houses. The Council, the Attorney said, had legal power to purchase property and issue bonds for the construction of buildings for public use.

## BALDWIN ASSESSMENT

AGAIN DISCUSSED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL MONDAY NIGHT.

Mr. Farrand's Motion to Reduce the Assessment from \$6,500 to \$1,500 Lost—Mr. Conlan's Motion to Confirm the Tax Duplicate in Its Entirety Carried—Mr. Moore's Exhaustive Analysis of the Disputed Assessment.

The Town Council on Monday night voted to confirm the tax duplicate submitted to the Council several weeks ago by the Board of Assessors. The delay in confirming the duplicate was due to an objection raised by Councilman Farrand against the assessment levied on the property of Benjamin F. Baldwin in Harrison Street. Mr. Baldwin owns a tract of land which has a frontage of 344 feet on Harrison Street and is said by some to contain three acres, and by others two and three-quarters acres. Two years ago there was a general increase of property valuations throughout the town made by the Board of Assessors for the purpose of keeping the tax-rate below four percent. Mr. Baldwin's property was included in the general advance in valuations, and assessed at \$2,500. Mr. Baldwin appealed from the assessment to the Board of Commissioners of Appeals, but the body was of the opinion that the assessment was an equitable one and declined to reduce it. Mr. Baldwin took the matter to the State Board and secured a reduction of \$400 in assessment. The following year the Board of Assessors again fixed the assessment at \$2,500, and again the matter was carried to the State Board, with the result that the assessment was again reduced to \$2,100. This year the Board of Assessors again assessed the property for \$2,500, and when the duplicate was presented to the Council for approval Mr. Farrand singled out the Baldwin property assessment and asked to have approval delayed until the Council could visit the property and judge of the equitableness of the assessment. A date for a meeting on the ground was fixed, but Councilmen Conlan and Walker, in addition to the Assessors, were the only ones present, but the other members of the Council made personal inquiry about the property and ascertained its comparative value as relative to adjoining property. The matter hung fire in the Council owing to the absence of Councilman Farrand. Finally the duplicate was approved with the exception of the Baldwin property.

On Monday night Mr. Farrand again brought the matter up and a prolonged discussion followed, in which Councilmen Farrand and Moore and Assessor Gilbert took the leading parts. Mr. Gilbert produced the field book and map to show that the Baldwin property was assessed at the same ratio of valuation as surrounding property. Mr. Farrand contended that the valuation was too high.

Chairman Peterson stated that he had asked the opinion of four property owners in that locality as to the valuation of the property, and there was only a difference of \$100 per acre in the price named, the highest being \$1,000 and the lowest \$900 per acre. Councilman Moore went into an exhaustive review of the whole subject. In the first place he thought it was a bad precedent for members of the Council to take up the grievances of individual taxpayers in the matter of property assessments; while it was the duty of the Councilmen to see to it that no serious injustice was done to any taxpayer, yet it was obvious that the confirmation of the tax duplicate by the Council could at the best be but a formal act, for to go into the individual cases would involve the Council in an endless amount of work and turmoil. Ample provision was made for the redress of assessment grievances in the local Board of Appeal or the State Board. Mr. Moore was opposed to any attempt on the part of the Council to set aside the work of the Board of Assessors.

In the Baldwin case, Mr. Moore said, referring to the map, it was clearly shown that on the 344 feet front on Harrison Street the assessment of \$5 per front foot for lots 150 feet in depth was exactly the same as that levied on the property adjoining Mr. Baldwin and of the property on the opposite side of the street. It was evident, he said, that up to the amount of \$1,720 Mr. Baldwin was not discriminated against and suffered no injustice. With respect to the property in the rear of the Harrison Street lots, Mr. Moore contended that taxing the property at the valuation placed upon it by the people in the neighborhood and adding it to the Harrison Street assessment, about which there could be no dispute, the total valuation was less than \$200 below the sum at which it was assessed by the Board of Assessors.

Mr. Farrand took some exceptions to Mr. Moore's statement of the case, and made a motion that the assessment be fixed at \$1,500. The motion was lost, and Mr. Conlan's motion that the tax duplicate be approved in its entirety was carried.